

Heller Ehrlman White & McAuliffe LLP
Attorney Docket No. 38025-0030

U.S. Serial No.09/822,841
Martin L. LENHARDT

Amendments

In the Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A The tinnitus masker/suppressor according to claim 1, further comprising, comprising:

an upper audio frequency source configured to output at least one upper audio frequency;

an output unit connected to the upper audio frequency source and configured to convert the upper audio frequency to an output signal to be provided to the patient via air conduction; and

an amplifier and power supply unit connected between the ultrasound unit and the output unit and configured to control an amplitude level of the at least one upper audio frequency to be no more than 20 dB greater than a threshold level of sound for the person,

wherein the output signal is used to mask or suppress the tinnitus.

3. (currently amended) The tinnitus masker/suppressor according to claim 4, wherein the at least one upper audio frequency is a frequency of between 10 kHz and 19.9 kHz.

4. (original) The tinnitus masker/suppressor according to claim 2, wherein the at least one upper audio frequency is swept over a range of frequencies centered at the at least one upper audio frequency.

5. (canceled)

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6. (currently amended) A tinnitus masker/suppressor, comprising:
an input port for receiving an input sound in an upper audio range;
an ultrasound frequency source that outputs an ultrasound frequency;
a first gain stage that is configured to multiply the input sound with the ultrasound frequency, and to output an output signal that is further multiplied by a first gain value;
and
a recording medium that receives the output signal and that records the output signal for playback at a later time.

7. (original) The tinnitus masker/suppressor according to claim 6, wherein the input sound is a music signal.

8. (original) A method for treating tinnitus, comprising:
a) mixing an input sound signal with an upper audio frequency signal, to obtain a mixed signal;
b) recording the mixed signal onto a recording medium; and
c) treating a patient by providing the mixed signal to the patient using the recording medium, by way of air conduction.

9. (original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
d) mixing an ultrasound frequency signal with the mixed signal, to obtain a second mixed signal, wherein the second mixed signal is recorded onto the recording medium and provided to the patient to treat the patient.

10 - 13. (canceled)

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14. (original) A method of suppressing tinnitus, comprising:

- a) providing music by way of a first input;
- b) providing at least one tone within a range of from 10 kHz to 20 kHz;
- c) multiplying the music with the at least one tone to provide a tinnitus treatment signal; and
- d) recording the tinnitus treatment signal onto a recording medium, for playback at a later time, so as to treat a patient by playing the tinnitus treatment signal from the recording medium.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the recording medium is a compact disk.

16. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the recording medium is an analog player.

17. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the recording medium is a digital player.

18. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one tone is noise within a range of from 10 kHz to 20 kHz.